

FOUR REAL STAR FIRST BASEMEN

Daubert, Merkle, Konetchy and Hobbitzel Wonders. ARE QUARTET OF SLUGGERS.

Every One of Them Can Whale the Ball For Keeps and Run the Bases Well, Besides Being All a First Sacker Should Be.

Star baseball players of any kind are exceedingly rare, but big league managers assert that crack first basemen are the scarcest commodities in the land. Any one doubting this statement may have it confirmed by asking either Barney Dreyfuss or Fred Clarke of Pittsburgh. After trading Kitty Bransfield to the Phillies in 1905 the Pirates were engaged in a continuous search for a first sacker until the spring of this year, when Clarke hit on the brilliant idea of converting "Dots" Miller into a first baseman. The Kearny (N. J.) boy has played the best first base the Pittsburgh bugs have seen in eight years, but "Dots" has not yet shown class enough to displace any one of the "big four" of the National league—Fred Merkle, Jake Daubert, Dick Hobbitzel and Eddie Konetchy. Some first basemen this quartet. Every one is a star of the first magnitude, and all are young men with their best days still ahead of them. All are lusty clubbers, as all first basemen should be, and hammer the old ball all over the lot. However, unlike some of the slugging first basemen of old, all these four men are among the leading speed merchants in the National league. It is hard to decide which one is the star of the quartet. Manhattan fans swear by Fred Merkle, and Brooklyn fans can see only Jake Daubert, while Cincinnati and St. Louis fans believe "Hobby" and "Koney" have no superiors. Perhaps no ball player, unless it is Rube Marquard, had a harder time to make good than Fred Merkle, and Fred deserves all the good things that have come to him in the last two years. Everybody knows the unfortunate "bone" Fred committed in 1908



Photo by American Press Association. JAKE DAUBERT, BROOKLYN'S GREAT FIRST SACKER.

and how it cost the Giants a championship. The fans did not forgive Fred for that lapse for a long time, and many managers laughed when Merkle was under discussion. "McGraw actually believes he can make a first baseman out of that fellow," said a prominent manager in 1909. But McGraw made a first baseman of Merkle, all right. Jake Daubert is another star who had to fight his way to the front. Turned back by Cleveland as not of big league caliber, Jake got a chance with the Superbas in 1910. No one considered that Daubert had a chance to beat out "Home Run" Tim Jordan, but Daubert played such great ball that he simply could not be kept out of the game. He is now in his third year with Brooklyn and is getting better all the time. Dick Hobbitzel, the clever first baseman of the Redlegs, is the most brilliant performer on Hank O'Day's roster. Cincinnati fans have to thank the old outlaw Union league for Hobbitzel. The Union league sprouted for a few months in 1908. After leaving college Dick made his professional debut with the Union. He landed with the Reds the following season and has starred for Garry Herrmann's team ever since. Eddie Konetchy is the oldest one of these four players in big league experience, though he has been in the National league only since 1907. Konetchy, like Daubert, has been handicapped by playing with a second division team.

INCREASES COAL PRODUCTION.

Virginia Active in 1911 With Coal Mined to the Value of \$6,254,804.

Virginia increased her production of coal in 1911 by 356,670 short tons according to a statement by Edward W. Parker, just made public by the United States Geological Survey acting in co-operation with the Virginia Geological Survey. The production in 1911 was 6,864,667 short tons, as compared with 6,507,997 tons in 1910. The value of the 1911 production was correspondingly greater, being \$6,254,804 as compared with \$5,874,486 in 1910 a gain of \$377,318. All the important producing counties in Virginia, except Lee county, showed increases, the principal gain being due to the developments in Russell county following the completion in 1910 of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad and the opening of transportation from the mines to the South Atlantic Seaboard. Russell county in 1909 produced only 440,000 short tons; in 1910 it produced a little less than 750,000 tons and in 1911 its production exceeded 1,050,000 tons. Virginia stands well up among the States in the quantity of coal produced per miner, but suffers somewhat by comparison with some other Appalachian States especially with West Virginia in the percentage of coal shot off the solid. In 1911 there were 7,392 men employed in the coal mines of the State with an average production per man of 929 tons per year, or 3.56 tons per day. Most of the miners worked 10 hours a day. Of the total production for the year more than 33 per cent. was shot off the solid.

PRESBYTERIANS START TO MAKE UP \$10,000,000 FUND.

Philadelphia, July 20.—The subcommittee of the executive committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church here to-day took the first step in the movement authorized by the General Assembly to raise \$10,000,000 for the support of aged and infirm ministers of the denomination and their dependents. The subcommittee consists of the Rev. Charles A. Little, Wabash, Ind.; the Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, Washington, D. C., and the Rev. William P. Bulton, Philadelphia. The commissioners arranged the order of procedure that will be followed tomorrow when the board of ministerial relief and the board of ministerial sustentation fund will meet for the first time under one management. Where heretofore there have been two agencies appealing to the general church for funds for the aged ministers, there will hereafter be but one and this one will present the cause with the purpose of raising \$10,000,000. Under the new arrangement it is expected that the work of relieving poor and aged ministers and their dependents will be conducted more satisfactorily.

"HARD TIMES" TALK.

After all, there is a good deal in talk. Let a man talk dull times and it is infectious; everybody talks dull times. Instead of rustling around to take care of what business there is, they all sit down and mope over dull times. If a customer does happen to drop into one of these "dull times" stores he actually gets frightened out of half as much as he expects to buy, because things look so blue. He catches the spirit of the store and resolves to hang on to all his money with a death grip, even if his business goes to pieces on account of running short of goods to fill up the empty shelves. The bugbear of hard times should be set down upon. It is doing more to kill business than anything else. Tell a man he is sick, keep it up, and you will eventually hound him to death.

Book Don'ts.

Good books are treasures, and they should be handled with the greatest of care by everyone. Here are a few rules that should be observed. Never drop a book upon the floor. Never turn leaves with the thumb. Never lean or rest upon an open book. Never turn down the corners of leaves. Never touch a book with soiled or damp hands. Always place a large book upon a table before opening it. Never pull a book from the shelf by the binding at the top, but by the back. Never close a book with a pencil, tablet or anything else that is bulky between the leaves.

Trying to Decide.

"Hear you have a fine baby at your house." "Yep; bouncing boy." "Who does he look like?" "Well, we haven't quite decided yet. To tell the truth, none of our relatives have very much coin."

Another Big Building.

"You said you were going to build a structure 30 stories high." "Yes," replied the architect. "That's the building." "But I count only 20 stories." "Quite so. The rest are fairy stories."—Washington Star.

Fun in the Rabbit Family.

Jane Rabbit—What's the matter with Pa Rabbit? Brother Bob—Ma's afraid he's gone to have apoplexy. He laughed so hard at the hunters shootin' each other.

On The Farm.

"Do you have any trouble in keeping your boys on the farm?" "No," replied Farmer Corntassel; "they're all willin' to stay. The only difficulty is that they all want to act like summer boarders."—Washington Star.

That Ended It.

"How long did your honeymoon last?" "Until the first time I was late for supper, if I remember rightly."—Detroit Free Press.

WHAT A METER IS.

The meter having been accepted by a majority of the nations as a basis of linear measurement, it was determined upon for use in the Olympic games, and with a few exceptions track and field distances have been marked according to it. The distances on the Stockholm program, reduced to exact terms of English measurement, which are common here, are as follows: 1 meter—39.37 inches. 100 meters—109 yards 11 inches. 150 meters—159 yards 11 inches. 200 meters—218 yards 2 feet 6 inches. 400 meters—437 yards 16 inches. 800 meters—874 yards 2 feet 9 inches. 1,500 meters—1,640 yards 5 inches. 1,600 meters—1,749 yards 18 inches (little less than a mile). 3,000 meters—1 mile 1,420 yards 10 inches. 5,000 meters—3 miles 189 yards. 10,000 meters—6 miles 378 yards. 40,200 meters—24 miles 1,621 yards 12 inches. (There are 1,760 yards, or 5,280 feet, in a mile.)

ARGENTINA POLOISTS COMING

International Matches to Be Played at Narragansett Pier. Promise of real international polo at Narragansett Pier, R. I., this year is contained in the invitation extended by the Point Judith Polo club to the Argentine team, which has had a victorious career in the tournaments in England. It is anticipated that the South American team will accept and take part in the tourney, which includes the open championships between July 29 and Aug. 24. The Argentine team is made up of two Irishmen and two Englishmen, who all have business interests in the Argentine. Their South American ponies are branded and rough looking, but rare gallopers and very handy. Aided by the handicap orders, the Argentine team won the Whitney cup tournament at Hurlingham and created a sensation by its quickness and hard hitting.

EXPECT TOO MUCH OF O'TOOLE

Fans Think \$22,500 Pitcher Should Win Nearly Every Game. While it is undoubtedly true that Pitcher Marty O'Toole of Pittsburgh has proved a disappointment in that it was naturally expected that a \$22,500 pitcher should never lose a game, the former St. Paul star occasionally shows marked ability, though he does not appear to be a consistent performer. So far as the investment in O'Toole is concerned it proved a good one. The Pittsburgh club more than got back what it paid for the pitcher last fall, and he is still an attraction these days. When Pittsburgh bought O'Toole it was for the purpose of making one final effort to win the pennant. Had O'Toole come through as was expected last fall the Pirates might have beaten the Giants to the wire. It was a gambling chance, and while no pennant was won it was not a losing game at that.

O'DAY LETS UMPIRES ALONE.

Cincinnati Manager Sticks to Promise Made When He Quit Indicating. It must be said of Hank O'Day, manager of the Cincinnati Reds, that he has not yet broken his vow, made early in the spring, that he would not bait umpires. Hank still shows that spirit of brotherly love. But his argument is a good one. He says arguing with umpires gets a manager nothing. He prefers to remain back in the shadows of the bench and depend on a square deal from the umpires. So far he has had no reason to complain, and it is certain that few of his players have been under suspension this season.

Umpire Has New Footgear.

Umpire Johnstone of the National league has something new in the way of footgear that is apt to attract a lot of attention and be copied by all the baseball umpires. He has a metal covering that fits over his shoes, so that foul tips that fly down at his feet do not break his toes. All umpires are protected well by the mask and the chest pad, and the greater majority wear shin guards beneath their trousers.

San Francisco Wants Horse Racing.

Nearly 35,000 residents of San Francisco have signed a petition to have horse racing resumed in California. A united effort is being made by horse owners, breeders, farmers and others to knock out the present anti-betting law and have as a substitute the pari-mutuel form of betting which has proved so popular in Kentucky and also in the larger cities of Europe, where horse racing thrives.

Australian Rugby Players Coming.

Australia will send a strong team of Rugby football players to the Pacific coast the coming fall. They are due to arrive in October and will play a series of games against the University of California, Leland Stanford and several of the club teams.

Evers Holds a Record.

Twenty-five games in succession without an error is a stretch of perfect fielding continuity or continuous perfection credited to Johnny Evers of the Chicago Cubs this season.

Kubiak Now a Policeman.

Al Kubiak, the heavyweight fighter, has joined the Philadelphia police force.

THE WELL DRESSED MAN.

Although fashions for men vary but little from season to season, there are slight changes that, when the years are taken into consideration, give pronounced results. This spring the man with a moderate income will have little difficulty in pleasing his personal taste in the matter of shirts, collars, neckties, handkerchiefs and socks. The haberdashery shops and department stores are filled with the latest creations at reasonable prices. The newest shirting materials are the French zephyr prints, and they stand the usual torture of the laundry well. The Japanese silk shirts will be quite popular for summer wear, but they are expensive. There will be more semi-stiff shirts worn than ever before. Last summer all shirts were soft. Turn-back cuffs are now more general than a fad. Such shirts are made up in stripes and figures. Individual taste plays an important part in the selection of neckwear. Persian designs, in the large scrolls are popular. They are made up in all grades of silk and in vivid colors. Knitted ties are far ahead of all others in popularity and they will be worn throughout the summer. Accordion weaves and plain silks are favorites among younger men.

The soft collar will not be worn to a great extent this season. It has been declared untidy in appearance. The old-fashioned, comfortable low collar will be the favorite.

Soft hats come in many shapes, and the soft cloth variety is popular with young men. The rough finish hats continue to be in evidence, but they will be toned down to a considerable extent and will present a refined appearance. The "freak" hat has been almost entirely abolished. The latest derby has a low crown and a wide brim, a French idea.

Straws are being provided in many shapes and styles, favorites among them being sennets and splits—with low crowns and wide brims. There are others who prefer the higher crowns and narrower brims, and personal choice is allowed. The pencil curve mackinaw will be among the summer's creations, and the Bankok, which was so well liked last year, is expected to repeat its popularity.

Lightweight Gold Now in Circulation

Washington, July 20.—There are probably millions of dollars in gold coin circulating in the United States which are not worth their face value. This fact has been called to the attention of Lee McClung, treasurer of the United States, but the government has no desire or intention to recall the money in order that only gold of standard value may be in circulation. Should this gold be presented to the treasury or sub-treasuries its owners would be the losers, because of the enormous wear caused by abrasions in circulation. While the government does not require that gold coins shall be of standard weight to be redeemed at their face value, it has established what is known as a "limit of tolerance" which permits loss in weight of one-half of one per cent. Below that limit the treasury makes a reduction at the rate of four cents per grain. Light weight gold, it is said, exists principally on the Pacific coast, where the greater bulk of the yellow metal is in circulation. Curiously enough, silver coin is always worth its face value, however much abused by the ravages of time.

Aiming High.

"How came she to get such a sudden craze on to visit the beauty doctors?" "She wants to look like her photograph."

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